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**Excise Police Lieutenant Graduates from FBI National Academy**

**INDIANAPOLIS (March 22)** – Indiana State Excise Police Lieutenant Christopher Bard graduated from the FBI National Academy program at Quantico, Virginia, today.

The 252<sup>nd</sup> session of the FBI National Academy consisted of men and women from almost every state. Lt. Bard, who resides in Bloomington, Ind., was among a graduating class that included members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, nearly two dozen international countries and several military organizations and federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

FBI Director Robert Mueller was the principal speaker at the ceremony.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, special agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia.

Nearly 46,000 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, more than 28,000 are still active in law enforcement work. Excise Captain Greg Deitchley currently serves as president of Indiana's chapter of graduates of the FBI National Academy, from which he graduated in the 197<sup>th</sup> session in June 1999.

"Lt. Bard was afforded a unique opportunity to train with and to develop professional relationships with law enforcement officers from across the country and internationally," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "He is one of many state excise police command officers to attend the FBI National Academy, which offers training that is not available at the state level."

"I will continue to encourage officers and command staff to broaden their knowledge, so they can continue to grow professionally and personally," he said.

Lt. Bard is the excise police District 5 commander, overseeing officers in 22 counties in southwest Indiana. He is a graduate of Merrillville High School and Ball State University, where he earned a bachelor of science in criminal justice.